

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5500

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

UNCLAS MADRID 3282

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: LAST FOUR SEGOVIA ESCAPEES APPARENTLY IN FRANCE

REF: MADRID 3025

1. SPANISH OFFICIAL RADIO ANNOUNCED APRIL 26 THAT SOURCES CLOSE TO BASQUE REFUGEES HAVE REPORTED THAT THE LAST FOUR ESCAPEES FROM SEGOVIA PRISON STILL AT LARGE (3 ETA MEMBERS AND 1 FRAP MEMBER) HAVE CROSSED THE BORDER INTO FRANCE. THEY WERE ACCOMPANIED BY A MEMBER OF THE COMMANDO UNIT WHICH HAD ORGANIZED THEIR ESCAPE AND APPARENTLY BY ANOTHER PERSON WHO LED THEM ACROSS THE BORDER.

2. OTHER RECENT ETA RELATED ACTIVITIES IN THE BASQUE PROVINCES REPUTEDLY INCLUDE THE ARREST APRIL 22 OF A MARRIED COUPLE WHO HAD FLED TO EXILE IN FRANCE IN 1969 UPON BEING ACCUSED OF PASSING PROPAGANDA FOR ETA AND WHO HAD RETURNED TO SPAIN ONLY A WEEK AGO. THEY HAD OBTAINED SPANISH PASSPORTS FROM THE SPANISH CONSULATE IN PAU. NO OFFICIAL REASON HAS YET BEEN GIVEN FOR THEIR ARREST.

3. APRIL 25 THE INTERIOR MINISTRY ANNOUNCED THAT OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS ANOTHER 36 PRESUMED MEMBERS OF ETA HAVE BEEN ARRESTED IN POLICE RAIDS. IN THE MEANWHILE SEVERAL OF THOSE ARRESTED

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EARLIER HAVE BEEN RELEASED.

4. REPORTEDLY, 7 OF THOSE PRESUMED ETA MEMBERS ARRESTED BY FRENCH POLICE AND SENT ON IDEFINITE DETENTION TO THE ISLAND OF YEU ATTEMPTED APRIL 24 UNSUCCESSFULLY TO ESCAPE.

5. "ARRIBA" (NATIONAL MOVEMENT) REPORTED TODAY, APRIL 27, THAT AN ETA COMMANDO UNIT WAS INTERCEPTED BY A GUARDIA CIVIL AMBUSH NEAR THE FRENCH BORDER SUNDAY MORNING. ONE ETA MEMBER WAS WOUNDED, THE OTHER THREE ESCAPED BACK INTO FRANCE. ACCORDING TO THE SAME BASQUE SOURCE WHO REPORTED THE ESCAPE INTO FRANCE OF THE FOUR SEGOVIA ESCAPEES, "PETUR," LEADER OF THE INTERCEPTED ETA COMMANDO UNIT (COMPOSED OF ETA FIFTH ASSEMBLY, POLITICAL-MILITARY WING MEMBERS), BELIEVES THAT HIS UNIT WAS BETRAYED BY RIVAL ETA MEMBERS. REPORTEDLY, "PERTUR" HAD EARLIER ORDERED THE ASSASSINATION (THE ATTEMPT WAS UNSUCCESSFUL) OF A RIVAL ETA LEADER UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH WOULD INDICATE THAT THE PERPETRATORS WERE THE SPANISH POLICE.

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